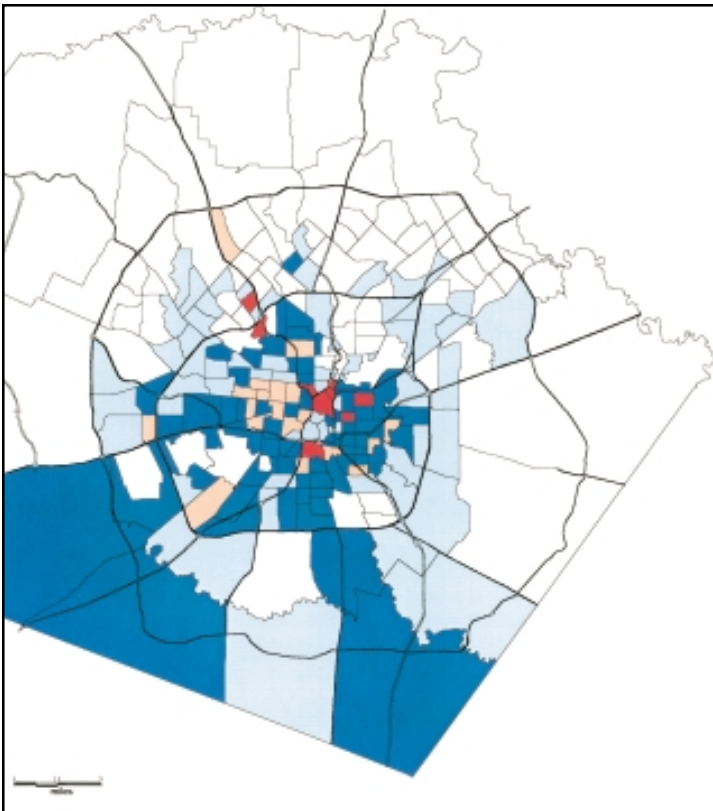


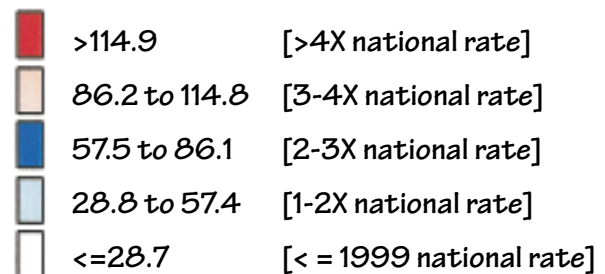
teen pregnancy

Bexar County 2001



1997 - 99 Bexar County Birth Rate for Females 15 - 17

Birth / 1000 Females 15 - 17:



[1997 - 1999 Births / 3]

[1998 Claritas Population Estimates]

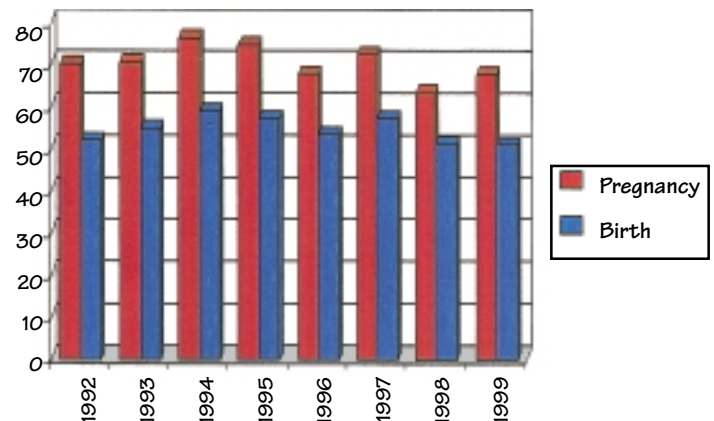
COMPARED TO THE U.S.:

In 1999, Bexar County's rate of births to females 15 - 17 was 50.2 per 1,000: over 75% higher than the U.S. rate of 28.7.

For Bexar County females 10 - 14, the rate of births was 2.3 per 1,000: 2.5 times the national rate of 0.9!

Rates among 15-17 year olds fell slightly from '98 to '99, but rates increased among girls under 15.

Bexar County 1992 - 1999 Pregnancies, Births per 1000 Females 15 - 17



Source: Texas Department of Health

The COSTS of Teen Pregnancy:

Higher risks for the mother:

- ◆ Dropping out of school
- ◆ Welfare
- ◆ Abortion
- ◆ Single Parenthood
- ◆ More offspring
- ◆ Late prenatal care

Higher risks for the baby:

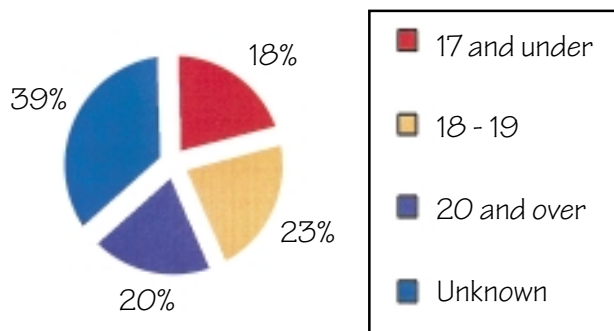
- ◆ Low birth weight
- ◆ Infant mortality
- ◆ Abuse and neglect
- ◆ Poor school performance
- ◆ Behavior problems
- ◆ Becoming a teen parent
- ◆ Incarceration

1999 Birth to Mothers Under Age 18 by School District

DISTRICT	Total # of births under 18
San Antonio	587
Northside	204
North East	159
Edgewood	150
Harlandale	134
S. San Antonio	93
Southwest	77
Judson	49
East Central	38
Southside	27
Somerset*	12
Alamo Heights	4
Lackland	1
Ft. Sam Houston	0
Randolph Field	0

*Does not include Atascosa County Births.

Many fathers of “teen” pregnancies are older:



What Works to Reduce Teen Pregnancy?

- ◆ There are no simple answers: communities must do many things to have effective prevention.
- ◆ Well-designed education programs can decrease risky behavior. Sex education has been shown NOT to increase sexual activity or cause earlier first intercourse.
- ◆ Access to contraceptives can increase use and provide protection from pregnancies and STDs. Access to contraceptives does NOT increase or promote sexual activity.
- ◆ Youth development programs offer teens a brighter future and reasons to delay pregnancy and childbearing.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCIES?

- ◆ Talk to your kids about sex, love, values, and responsibility.
- ◆ Encourage sexual abstinence as a positive and healthy choice.
- ◆ Help teens to see a bright future for themselves.
- ◆ Provide teens with healthy activities and good role models.
- ◆ Reduce conflict: “While the adults are arguing, the kids are getting pregnant.”
- ◆ Give teens a clear and consistent message:

ADOLESCENCE IS FOR EDUCATION AND GROWING UP, NOT FOR HAVING BABIES.

Prepared by



Health Education and Promotion
a division of the San Antonio
Metropolitan Health District

For more
information
call 207-2107.

For an appointment at the Teen Clinic, call 207-8850.

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